



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P. O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VA 23218-2120

Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program Process

Thank you for your interest in the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (VTSLP). The Virginia General Assembly funds the VTSLP as an incentive for college students interested in pursuing a teaching career in a critical shortage teaching area. These scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduate students in the sophomore, junior, or senior year of college and to graduate students at an accredited public or private institution of higher education in Virginia.

Each spring, Virginia colleges and universities with approved education programs identify teacher candidates for the VTSLP based on selection criteria which may include grade point average, teaching areas, and residence. The Office of Teacher Education disseminates nomination packages to the teacher candidates. Candidates must return completed packages to the college's or university's Office of Teacher Education. Only the dean or director of teacher education may submit applications to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

After the VDOE receives nomination applications from the colleges or universities, a selection panel makes the final determination of recipients for the next academic year. Full-time teacher candidates may receive up to \$3,720.00 and part-time teacher candidates receive a prorated amount based on the number of credit hours for which the student has enrolled. Award recipients are notified using the mailing address on their nomination application. Scholarship recipients of the VTSLP are expected to teach in the public schools of Virginia one semester per \$1,000.

The teaching obligation may be fulfilled by teaching (i) in one of the critical teacher shortage disciplines as established by the Board of Education; or (ii) regardless of teaching discipline, in a school with a high concentration of students eligible for free or reduced lunch; or (iii) in any discipline or at any grade level within a school division with a shortage of teachers, as defined in the Board of Education's Regulations Governing the Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas; or (iv) in a rural or urban region of the state with a teacher shortage. Should a recipient choose not to teach in a Virginia public school, a repayment schedule through the Division of Finance and Accounting in the Department of Education must be established to repay the full amount of the award. Students are expected to notify the Department of Education in writing of any change in enrollment status.

I am hopeful this information offers some additional clarity regarding the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Teacher Education at your college or university or the Virginia Department of Education, Office of Teacher Education at (804) 225-2096.